

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed April 8, 2003. At that time, claims 1-28 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5, 9, and 10 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-13, and 15-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,068,862 to Ishi et al. (hereinafter "Ishi"). Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,447,105 to Bauer et al. (hereinafter "Bauer").

The Examiner entered a restriction requirement requiring an election between claim Group I (claims 1-21 drawn to an airbag inflator diffusion system) and claim Group II (claims 22-28 drawn to a method for fabricating an inflator diffuser). A provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute Group I, claims 1-21, by Sally Brown on March 25, 2003. By this paper, Applicant affirms the election to prosecute the claims of Group I, claims 1-21, with traverse. Accordingly, claims 22-28 are cancelled without prejudice.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 5, and 22-28 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 29 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-21 and 29 are presented for reconsideration by the Examiner.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER


The Examiner indicated that claims 5, 9, and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. *See* Office Action page 5. Independent claim 1 was amended to include the limitations of claim 5, including the limitations of the intervening claims. Since claims 4-15 depend upon independent claim 1, claims 4-15 are also allowable. Claim 16 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 9, namely the features of a first longitudinal edge overlapping a second longitudinal edge. Claim 29 has been added which includes a limitation also found in claim 9 that the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter. Claim 29 contains no new matter.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. After considering this Amendment, if there are any unresolved issues, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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